



ONE OF A KIND

Parable of the Apple Tree

This is a story about a little apple tree. She was nestled among a grove of oak trees. She was very unsatisfied with her situation in life; she felt inadequate among the great oaks. One day she said:

Dear Mother Nature, I want to grow big. I want to grow tall like the oak tree. I want to see the stars.

And Mother Nature would say:

Be patient, have faith, believe in yourself, and you will find the stars.

So she was patient and in the spring her branches were loaded with blossoms. They were the most beautiful blossoms anyone had ever seen. People came from all over to see her unique beauty. And when they left she said:

I know but, Dear Mother Nature, I want to grow big. I want to grow tall like the oak tree. I want to see the stars.

And Mother Nature would say:

Be patient, have faith, believe in yourself, and you will find the stars.

So she was patient and in the summer apples appeared where the blossoms had been and in the late fall they turned a bright, and brilliant red. Again, people came from all over in hopes of getting just one of her apples (like this one) and they commented that her fruit was more delicious than any they had ever tasted. They also commented on her unique, spectacular beauty and her ability to thrive in a grove of oaks. And when they all left she said:

I know but, Dear Mother Nature, I want to grow big. I want to grow tall like the oak tree. I want to see the stars.

And Mother Nature would say:

Be patient, have faith, believe in yourself, and you will find the stars.

[What the little apple tree didn't know was that the stars were within her. (Start cutting the apple across the middle, horizontally.) The seed pattern forms a star. (Show the apple.) The stars were within her just as the stars are within each and everyone of us. It is important to remember that each one of us brings special qualities, talents, contributions, and personalities which can make a positive difference in the world.]

